possible to pursue the target of 10,000 MWe by 2000 AD mainly due to resource constraints and it has, therefore, been decided to match the programme with available resources.

ट्राम्बे और तारापुर में रेडियोधर्मी द्रव पदार्थ पड़ा होना

3497. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या ट्राम्बे तथा तारापुर में सैकड़ों टन रेडियोधर्मी द्रव पदार्थ टैंकों में भरा पड़ा है तथा उसकी दशा बहुत अधिक बिगड़ चुकी है और वह कभी भी जनसुरक्षा के लिए गंभीर खतरा बन सकता है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र कुमार भगतराम अलघ): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। ट्राम्बे और तारापुर में स्थित टैंकियों में भंडारित किए जाने वाले और द्रव विकिरणसक्रिय अपशिष्ट पदार्थों से जन सामान्य की सुरक्षा को कोई खतरा नहीं है, क्योंकि ये भंडारण प्रणालियों सुरक्षा संबंधी उच्च मानदण्डों को पूरा करती हैं।

Proposal from Foreign investors for setting up of Nuclear Power Plants

3498. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from foreign investors to set up nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up such a nuclear power plant in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) Government have not received any such proposal. Some preliminary interest has been expressed, but no details are available.

Private Sector participation in Nuclear Power

3499. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes private sector particiaption in promoting and generating nuclear power in the country; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard stating the braod features of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or foreign, in the nuclear power sector. Such offers, when received have to be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic attractiveness and conditions attached thereto.

Forcible repatriation of Indian doctors from America

3500. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of Indian doctors currently practising in United States are being repatriated from that country;

(b) whether Government have lodged a formal protest with the J.S. authorities in the matter; and

(c) whether the U.S. action is in contravention of the letter and spirit of the terms and conditions of the World Trade Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Government are aware of the illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 which was part of an omnibus Bill passed by the US Congress in 1996 and signed by the US President on September 30, 1996, from which date it comes into force. The Act does not target India specifically and applies to foreign nationals staying in the US illegally beyond periods authoritzed in their non-immigrant visa. Press reports, therefore, of the forced repatriation of thousands of Indian doctors from the US are not accurate.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Release of Indian Children by Pakistan

3501. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has of late freed the 38 Indian children incarcerated in Pak Jails as a goodwill gesture and returned them to India, to create a propitious atmosphere for the forthcoming Foreign Secretaries level talks between the two countries;

(b) if so, when these children reached India and whether they urged for early release of other fishermen in Pak-custody also lest they meet their death in jails; and

(c) the Government's response thereto and the results of talks since held at Foreign Secretaries level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) In March 1997, Pakistan released 38 Indian children who were under detention in Pakistan since 1994. These children were travelling on Indian fishing vessls which were apprehended by Pakistani authorities. It was stated by Pakistan that this gesture was to create a propitious climate for the Foreign Secretary talks which were held from 28—31 March, 1997 in New Delhi.

(b) The children reached Mumbai on 23rd March, 1997 and were reported to have called for early release of other detainees in Pakistani custody.

(c) Government is anxious to secure the earliest possible release of detained fishermen. The Pakistani authorities have been contacted on many occasions in this regard, including during the Foreign Secretary level talks. It is hoped that early progress will be made on this issue.

Nepal's suggestion for collaboration among SAARC countries

3502. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepalese delegation to the conference of the SAARC Council of Ministers held in December, 1996 had presented a paper advocating collaboration between India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan for developing continuous parts of the four countries in the areas of water, electricity, transport, trade, communication, etc.;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(c) India's reaction to this concept and whether any initiative is proposed to be taken by India, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The paper presented by the Government of Nepal broadly included promotion of sub-regional economic cooperation by engaging Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India through a series of comprehensive expert studies to help implement the concept of sub-regional cooperation in the core economic sector. The proposal envisaged utilising economies of scale for mutual benefit through a three phase plan.